

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCING THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE BRUCE VENTO

(Mr. OBERSTAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, with great sadness, a sense of personal loss and loss to this House, I take the well to announce that at 11:20 this morning, our colleague, Congressman BRUCE VENTO, succumbed to mesothelioma, asbestos-induced cancer of the lung and peritoneal cavity.

BRUCE, in his 12th term, served the people of his district nobly, with dignity, with passion, with purpose. He championed environmental causes. He championed the needs of the homeless, the voiceless, the voteless, those who could not do for themselves. He was an advocate for working people. He voted consistently and worked vigorously and strenuously, to champion the cause of organized labor in this body. He brought a balance to all that he undertook, and with a science teacher-like care for fact and detail, he pursued his causes with only the greatest of dignity and of skill.

My prayers go out to his wife Sue, to his children, to his constituents. I thank the Reverend Chaplain for the prayer for BRUCE and for his family. I ask all of our colleagues to join their prayers with those of the Vento family.

SECURITY FOR OUR SENIORS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, we all have responsibilities in life. Unfortunately, the Clinton-Gore administration is once again irresponsibly blocking the road to prosperity for American people.

Our seniors should not be forced to choose between food and medicine, and under our debt relief plan they will not have to make this tough choice. This Republican-led Congress wants to put 100 percent of Social Security and Medicare surpluses in a lockbox, and create another lockbox strictly for debt reduction to protect all our senior citizens. We want to guarantee that the surplus created by the tax dollars of the hardworking people of America be used for debt reduction and not big government spending.

Our fiscal discipline will ensure that as we continue to pay off the debt, we will have more money to save for Social Security and Medicare. And this means more security and a better quality of life for our seniors.

Let us keep the Washington bureaucrats out of our surpluses, out of our pockets, and out of our medicine cabinets. Let us build true prosperity and

security for every American, young and old alike.

THE CHINA THREAT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, China will get \$100 billion from Uncle Sam this year in trade surplus. With our cash, China is buying missiles like they are going out of style. Now, if that is not enough to arm yourself, after being told by the CIA that in fact China has those missiles aimed at America, Janet Reno appointed independent counsels for two love triangles.

Beam me up. Monica may be a threat to fidelity but China happens to be a threat perhaps to our national security. It is time to wise up, Congress, and wake up and smell the treason, and it is time to have a full and thorough investigation into this China mess and Janet Reno.

I yield back the fact that China has more soldiers than America has citizens, men, women and children combined.

TAIWAN

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan as they celebrate their 89th National Day, which anniversary is today. There is a great deal to celebrate for the people of Taiwan. Taiwan has an even distribution of wealth and its citizens enjoy a high standard of living. Taiwan has been able to prosper in recent times despite its limited resources and relatively large population.

President Chen Shui-bian and the political leaders of Taiwan have done an excellent job of leading their country into the 21st century. Their effort to rejoin the United Nations and to maintain a dialogue with the Chinese mainland are admirable. Taiwan deserves a voice in these and other international organizations. There is no question that President Chen wants a serious dialogue with the mainland. He seeks stability in the Taiwan Strait and wants peace to prevail in the Asia Pacific region.

May God continue to bless our friends in the Republic of China on Taiwan. May Taiwan continue to shine as a beacon of prosperity and freedom in the Far East. And may Taiwan play an active role in international affairs and coexist with the Chinese mainland.

A PRESIDENT SHOULD TELL THE TRUTH

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, should someone who does not believe in facts be our President?

Fiction: AL GORE recently claimed that his mother-in-law pays more than \$100 for arthritis medicine. Fact: The figure came from a Democratic Party study. Newspapers reported AL GORE was not even sure his mother-in-law was taking any medication or had arthritis.

Fiction: AL GORE's sister tragically died of lung cancer and he vowed never to accept tobacco money as campaign contributions. Fact: Just 4 years later he spoke to the tobacco industry, said he was one of them, and raised \$100,000.

Fiction: AL GORE's campaign literature once claimed he was a "brilliant student." Fact: He received C's and D's in college and dropped out of law school and divinity school.

Fiction: AL GORE claimed credit for inventing the Internet in the 1990s. Fact: The Internet has been used by government and educational institutions since the 1970s.

Fiction: AL GORE recently said that if elected President he would penalize producers of Hollywood's graphic sex and violence. Fact: Just 6 days later he attended a fund-raiser by Hollywood producers and raised \$4 million.

Madam Speaker, we need a President who tells the truth.

TRIBUTE TO K. GUNN MCKAY

(Mr. HANSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, on October 6 last week our former colleague K. Gunn McKay passed away due to complications of cancer.

Gunn served in this House from 1971 to 1981 and was chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction of the Committee on Appropriations.

Gunn's family comes from Huntsville, Utah, and as a relatively young man his father passed away. Gunn worked diligently to help his brothers and sisters to gain an education and took over many of the responsibilities of the family.

As a public servant, Gunn admirably served the people of the First Congressional District of Utah, he served in the Utah legislature, and as chief of staff to former Governor Cal Rampton. He also was a very devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and served in many positions of leadership.

Gunn and his wife Donna are the parents of 10 children, and he has a remarkably fine family composed of both his brothers and sisters as well as his own children. I am sure that many of my former colleagues and his former colleagues join with me in expressing condolences to the McKay family at the time of Gunn's passing.

ON SCORE

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House